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ROTC Decision Questioned, Petition Asks Faculty Review

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Petitions will be circulated today in an attempt to bring Thursday's Senate ROTC decision under review by the entire faculty.

Harold Kahn, associate professor of history, indicated yesterday that several faculty members, "angry, distraught, and disturbed by the Senate's decision," would circulate a petition asking the entire Academic Council to reconsider the decision allowing limited credit for Army ROTC courses.

If the petition receives 50 signatures of members of the Academic Council—faculty members of assistant professor rank or higher—a special meeting of the Council will be called within four weeks of the time the petition is submitted to the secretary of the Academic Council. The Council could then change, modify, or uphold the Senate decision.

In a related development, Prof. Alan S. Manne, economics and operations research, resigned as chairman of the President's Advisory Committee on ROTC Affairs. In a letter to President Fitzer Prof. Manne said, "In view of yesterday's regrettable Senate action, it is inappropriate for me to remain on this committee." Although chairman of the committee which recommended adoption of the Army proposal, Prof. Manne dissented along with Prof. Lyman Van Slyke, history, and strongly disagreed with the

recommendations in the Senate debate Thursday.

Prof. Manne is out of town and could not be reached for comment. Vice-president and Provost Richard Lyman termed his resignation "unfortunate" and said he feared it would be misinterpreted. Lyman said that although Prof. Manne did not agree with the committee's report or the Senate action, he should not feel that he is being identified with either.

Last Thursday, the faculty Senate voted to allow Army ROTC to submit its courses to the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (CUS) for credit approval. The move is on a one-year basis. The CUS regularly reviews courses that are not normally taught within a Department. It can grant credit to courses it feels worthy.

The Senate approved with minor changes an Army proposal for revised contracts between itself and Stanford in light of the Senate's decision last February to deny ROTC credit after a gradual phase-out. The proposal adopted Thursday also replaces the Department of Military Studies with a Center for Military Studies and takes away the faculty status of Army instructors. The instructors will have the normal privileges of faculty members without tenure, except membership on the Academic Council.

Disagreement over the interpretation of the Senate's action arose over the weekend. Prof. William Clebsch, religion and humanities and chairman of the faculty Senate, said "ROTC was placed by the Senate in a more precarious situation with respect to short range considerations than was the case last February. But the long range possibility of irregular course credit for ROTC was extended...The periodic phase-out of credit was canceled."

The decision of the Senate last February declared, "After a transitional period, there should be no academic credit received for participation in programs of military training and education. Students already enrolled in ROTC programs, and those enrolling prior to the fall term 1970, shall continue as present...Beginning with the fall term 1970, no entering freshman shall be granted academic credit for ROTC activities." Also, the rank of instructors was to be gradually changed.

However, Prof. Clebsch said, "Last Thursday the Senate placed the Army contract on an entirely new basis with respect to credit and departmental-faculty basis." In other words, for the trial period beginning September, 1970, the Senate removed the ROTC departmental status and faculty status of the instructors. It also removed blanket credit for all classes—including those of students already enrolled in the program.

Next September, all Army ROTC courses will have to be submitted for review before the CUS in order to be given credit—freshmen through senior years. This changes the gradual phase-out of credit that had been planned. The CUS could deny credit to courses of upperclassmen that would have been granted credit under the old Senate plan.

Furthermore, at the end of the trial period, the Senate could vote to deny all credit to ROTC classes, two years before the phase-out had been planned to end. Prof. Clebsch said, "There is disagreement as to whether the Senate's recent action might result in a termination of all credit for ROTC in 1971 if the trial year were not renewed."

Colonel Stanley Ramey, commanding officer of Army ROTC, disagreed with Clebsch's interpretation. He feels that the Senate decided that "for incoming classes, anything (Army ROTC has) will come before the Committee on Undergraduate Studies. Those that are already enrolled will get credit for courses."

Law Professor Thomas Ehrlich and author of the resolution the Senate approved, agreed with Clebsch's interpretation. He said the decision called for a "completely new contract (between Stanford and the Army) under which each course would be submitted to the CUS" for approval.